

Introduced by Senators Alquist, Figueroa, and Kehoe
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Bass, Berg, Liu, Pavley, and
Saldana)

January 19, 2006

Senate Joint Resolution No. 20—Relative to Women’s Equality
Day.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SJR 20, as introduced, Alquist. Women’s Equality Day.

This measure would memorialize the Congress and the President of the United States to uphold protections of women’s equality and to encourage all Americans to participate in the celebration of Women’s Equality Day on August 26, 2006, the 86th anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, which gave women the right to vote.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, August 26, 2006, marks the 86th anniversary of
2 passage of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States
3 Constitution and is Women’s Equality Day, a day deserving of
4 celebration and special public commendation; and
5 WHEREAS, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Lucretia Mott, Martha
6 C. Wright, Mary Ann McClintock, and Jane Hunt organized the
7 first Women’s Rights Convention in 1848 in Seneca Falls, New
8 York, where 100 women and men from all walks of life affixed
9 their signatures to the Declaration of Sentiments, which
10 proclaimed that “all men and women are created equal” and are
11 “endowed with certain inalienable rights,” including elective
12 franchise; and

1 WHEREAS, Several generations of suffragists fought for the
2 right for women to vote and few early participants in this massive
3 civil rights movement lived to see the victory in 1920; and

4 WHEREAS, On August 26, 1920, after a 72-year struggle, the
5 Nineteenth Amendment was added to the United States
6 Constitution, securing a woman's right to vote; and

7 WHEREAS, In 1971, the United States Congress designated
8 August 26 as Women's Equality Day to commemorate the
9 ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States
10 Constitution and as a reminder of the need for continuing efforts
11 for women to achieve full equality; and

12 WHEREAS, Since 1920, women have made tremendous gains
13 in society, including the right to vote, the right to be free from
14 discrimination in employment, and the right to equal access to
15 education, including sports; and

16 WHEREAS, Despite these gains, women still need to make
17 great strides in order to achieve civic, economic, and social
18 equality; and

19 WHEREAS, Women still earn only 76 cents to every dollar
20 earned by a man, disproportionately live in poverty, and are more
21 likely to be victims of domestic violence than men, female
22 athletes have fewer participation opportunities than male athletes,
23 and far fewer dollars are spent on women's athletics programs
24 than on men's athletics programs; and

25 WHEREAS, On August 26, 2006, Women's Equality Day and
26 the anniversary of the passage of the Nineteenth Amendment, the
27 women and men who have worked tirelessly to secure equality
28 for women are to be commended for what they have achieved
29 thus far and supported in their continued efforts to champion the
30 rights of women; now, therefore, be it

31 *Resolved by the Senate and the Assembly of the State of*
32 *California, jointly,* That the Legislature of the State of California
33 memorializes the Congress and the President of the United States
34 to do all of the following:

35 (1) Dedicate themselves to upholding the current legal
36 protections of equality for women.

37 (2) Continue to pioneer new protections of equality for women
38 until women achieve parity with men.

39 (3) Encourage all Americans to participate in the national
40 celebration of Women's Equality Day in recognition of the 86th

1 anniversary of the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States
2 Constitution and its historic importance in promoting women's
3 rights; and be it further
4 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
5 this resolution to the President of the United States and to all
6 Members of the United States Congress.

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